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Rapporteur: Mr. Rodrigo Otávio **Penteado Moraes** (Brazil)

Addendum

Programme questions: proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019

(Item 3 (a))

Report of the Secretary-General on consolidated changes to the biennial programme plan as reflected in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019

Introduction

1. At its 12th and 14th meetings, on 12 and 22 June 2017, the Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General on consolidated changes to the biennial programme plan as reflected in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019 (A/72/84 and Corr.1 and Corr.2 and A/72/84/Add.1).

2. Representatives of the Secretary-General introduced the report and responded to questions raised during its consideration by the Committee.

Discussion

3. A delegation expressed appreciation for the presentation of the report and sought clarification of whether all the proposed programme budget fascicles for the biennium 2018-2019 were before the Committee, in addition to confirmation that the biennial programme plans in those fascicles were identical to those contained in the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2018-2019 (A/71/6/Rev.1). It was recalled that, pursuant to regulation 5.8 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation (ST/SGB/2016/6), the

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Committee was to review the proposed programme budget to ensure that the narratives of the programme budget fascicles were identical to the approved biennial programme plan and report on its deliberations.

Conclusions and recommendations

4. **The Committee, in line with its conclusion in paragraph 66 of its report on its fifty-second session (A/67/16) and with General Assembly resolution 67/236, reiterated its expectation that indicators of achievement and objectives put forward for consideration under the biennial programme plan for the period 2020-2021 should ideally be strategic, measurable, achievable, realistic and time-bound.**

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Addendum

Programme questions: proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019

(Item 3 (a))

Report of the Secretary-General on consolidated changes to the biennial programme plan as reflected in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019

Programme 2
Political affairs

1. At its 14th meeting, on 22 June 2017, the Committee considered the addendum to the report of the Secretary-General on consolidated changes to the biennial programme plan as reflected in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019 (A/72/84/Add.1).

2. Representatives of the Secretary-General introduced the subprogramme and responded to questions raised during its consideration by the Committee.

Discussion

3. The establishment of the Office of Counter-Terrorism and the recent appointment of the Under-Secretary-General to head the Office were welcomed.

4. A delegation noted that the programme should be commensurate with the administrative structure of the Office. The delegation also noted that no changes had been made to the programme, including with regard to initiatives, expected

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accomplishments and indicators of achievement, seeking clarification of whether there would be such changes, including new initiatives, in the future.

Conclusions and recommendations

5. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the changes to the narrative of programme 2, Political affairs, as set out in the report of the Secretary-General (A/72/84/Add.1) and in the revised estimates relating to the Office of Counter-Terrorism, under section 3, Political affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019.**

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Addendum

Programme questions: evaluation
(*Item 3 (b)*)

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the evaluation of the Economic Commission for Europe

1. At its 6th meeting, on 7 June 2017, the Committee considered the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) on the evaluation of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) (E/AC.51/2017/5).

2. The Assistant Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services introduced the report and, together with representatives of OIOS, the Executive Secretary of ECE and representatives of ECE, responded to questions raised during its consideration by the Committee.

Discussion

3. Delegations expressed their appreciation for the report of OIOS, particularly with regard to its analysis of the role of ECE in supporting member countries in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

4. Delegations commended the multilateral activities of ECE and its work in sustainable development in general and the Sustainable Development Goals in particular. Delegations indicated that they considered the Commission to be a promising discussion platform for normative and regional processes, and noted that its technical expertise and standard-setting work were important for the achievement of the entire range of the Goals. One delegation noted with satisfaction that an international conference on the Goals held in their country had been successfully

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supported by ECE. Another delegation referred to the concentration of project activity in the area of the environment, and clarification was sought from ECE regarding that issue. As regards the normative and standard-setting nature of the work of ECE, a question was raised on how the Commission monitored the impact of its norms and standards, since such monitoring did not appear to be done systematically.

5. Several delegations discussed the global, as opposed to the regional, nature of the work and outputs of ECE. One delegation questioned OIOS about defining a convention as global rather than regional on the basis of the criterion of only one non-member country being a signatory. The delegation noted that other regional economic commissions had mandates and activities in the same areas in which ECE carried out its work, and that regional commissions had their own regional specificities to consider, even though membership in the commissions often included member countries outside their respective regions.

6. A delegation commented that, although the report appeared to reflect the assumption that the global focus of some of the activities of ECE was not considered to be positive, it was of the view that that focus was positive for both the Commission and non-member countries. Furthermore, the delegation recognized the effort of ECE in mapping its global outputs and enquired what the Commission considered to be the likely result of that exercise.

7. A number of delegations discussed the potential financial implications of a global focus and the resources that would be required to cope with increased demands. One delegation commended ECE for finding ways to realize efficiencies and for working within the confines of its current budget, and sought clarification regarding the actual increases in cost that had occurred when ECE products became more widely available.

8. A delegation reiterated some of the challenges raised in the report, namely, the need to cooperate with partners within and outside ECE and the significant increase in workload, together with cuts in resources. The delegation sought clarification as to how ECE was planning to ensure the future implementation of its programmes in those circumstances, taking into account the various instruments that the Commission had at its disposal.

Conclusions and recommendations

9. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly endorse the recommendations contained in paragraphs 57 to 61 of the report of OIOS on the evaluation of ECE (E/AC.51/2017/5).**

10. **With regard to recommendation 3, the Committee took note that the issue had been the subject of discussion within ECE.**

11. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly encourage ECE to continue to promote economic integration and interconnectivity in line with the existing mandate of the Commission.**

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Addendum

Programme questions: proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019

(*Item 3 (a)*)

Proposed revisions to the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation (article VII and annex)

1. At its 13th meeting, on 13 June 2017, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered the report of the Secretary-General on proposed revisions to the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation (article VII and annex) (A/72/73/Rev.1).

2. It was recalled that, at its fifty-fifth session, the Committee had decided to defer consideration of the proposed revisions to article VII, Evaluation, of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation to its fifty-seventh session and had recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to propose further revisions to article VII and the annex to the Regulations and Rules, taking into account relevant resolutions of the Assembly. The General Assembly endorsed that recommendation in its resolution 70/8 of 13 November 2015.

3. Representatives of the Secretary-General introduced the report and responded to questions raised during its consideration by the Committee.

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Discussion

4. A delegation sought clarification on the role of the Central Evaluation Unit, as referenced in the report, and what was its role in connection with the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS). A delegation sought clarification on the nature of the revisions proposed, while highlighting that many changes reflected the substitution of the term "medium-term plan" with the term "strategic framework", with the exception of the insertion of new regulation 7.4; and on whether the revisions had been mandated, in particular the proposed changes to the annex, designated in bold, on page 12 (the insertion of "objectives and"); page 14 (the insertion of "Indicators should ideally be strategic, measurable, achievable, realistic and time bound"); and page 15 (the replacement of "Central Monitoring and Inspection Unit" with "Department of Management"). It was further requested that the resolutions providing justification for the proposed revisions be made available to the Committee (namely, resolutions 48/218B, 58/269 and 67/236), as well as the revisions to the Regulations and Rules contained in ST/SGB/2000/8 and ST/SGB/2016/6.

5. Several delegations broadly supported the changes and underlined the factual nature of all proposed changes, adding that those changes had been under discussion since 2013. Furthermore, the delegations welcomed the proposed changes in the annex on the revised definition of the term "indicators of achievement", but indicated that they "should be" strategic, measurable, achievable, realistic and time bound (or "SMART"), and not "ideally be" as proposed. The delegations expressed the view that the revision addressed earlier requests of the Committee regarding the quality of indicators to be included in the results-based management framework, so as to foster the accountability of the Secretariat.

6. In respect of the proposed insertion of regulation 7.4, several delegations expressed some concern regarding the proposed inclusion of the new regulation. Notably, the delegations highlighted the OIOS reports currently before the Committee on the evaluation of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East and on the thematic evaluation of the regional commissions, in which OIOS referred to and drew broad conclusions regarding resources when the scope of the evaluations had been narrow. The delegations sought clarification on whether the endorsement by the Committee of the proposed new regulation 7.4 would result in increased resource requirements in those two cases, as well as in future cases.

Conclusions and recommendations

7. The Committee reaffirmed its role of verifying that the programmes of activities of the Organization were implemented in line with the legislative mandates and that the full implementation of regulations and rules should be ensured.

8. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the proposed revisions to the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation (article VII and annex), subject to the following modifications:

Regulation 7.4

The Committee did not agree with the recommendation to insert a new regulation 7.4 and recommended that it not be included.

Annex II

Monitoring

Replace the definition of "Monitoring" with the following text:

Monitoring is the *periodic determination* by the head of a department or office of the actual delivery of final outputs in comparison with the commitments for the delivery of outputs set out in the programme budget as approved by the General Assembly.

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Addendum

Programme questions: proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019

(*Item 3 (a)*)

Report of the Secretary-General on consolidated changes to the biennial programme plan as reflected in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019

Programme 25
Management and support services

1. At its 12th and 13th meetings, on 12 and 13 June 2017, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered the report of the Secretary-General on the consolidated changes to the biennial programme plan as reflected in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019 (A/72/84 and Corr.1 and 2).

2. The Assistant Secretary-General/Chief Information Technology Officer introduced the programme and responded to questions raised during its consideration by the Committee.

Discussion

3. Some delegations welcomed the proposal of the Secretary-General and the leadership shown in information and communications technology. A delegation expressed appreciation for the continued efforts of the Secretariat to reduce the fragmentation of information and communications technology and increase

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collaboration in the implementation of the information and communications technology strategy.

4. Some delegations stressed the importance of developing a robust information and communications technology system in the broader context of the effectiveness and transparency of resources and to ensure effective governance. A delegation noted the significant progress made in that regard, including improved collaboration between the Office of Information and Communications Technology and the Department of Field Support, and emphasized the importance of creating improved performance metrics that would permit reporting on the timely submission of documentation and on air travel, and better measurement of videoconferencing services. As regards air travel, clarification was sought as to how such metrics could be further enhanced for broader application.

5. A delegation noted that the expected accomplishments set out in the report reflected those of the Secretariat for the biennium 2018-2019. A delegation remarked that in general there was a lack of focus on impact and results within the Organization, with more focus placed on inputs and outputs. The delegation sought clarification as to what more could be done to clearly define the impact.

6. A delegation noted that the transfer of functions proposed in the report was in response to existing mandates. A delegation sought clarification regarding the language proposed for removal from subprogramme 3, Field support, of programme 28, Safety and security, which did not appear to be the same language proposed for inclusion in component 4, Application and website development support, of subprogramme 5, Information and communications technology strategic management and coordination, of programme 25, Management and support services. Clarification was sought as to the reasons for the difference, and whether all functions would be transferred or some would remain under programme 28.

7. One delegation referred to the increase in resource requirements for the programme and noted that it would be considered in the context of the budget review during the main part of the seventy-second session of the General Assembly.

Conclusions and recommendations

8. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the changes to the narrative of programme 25, Management and support services, as set out in the report of the Secretary-General (A/72/84 and Corr.1 and 2) and in section 29E, Office of Information and Communications Technology, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019 (A/72/6 (Sect. 29E)).**

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Addendum

Programme questions: evaluation
(*Item 3 (b)*)

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the thematic evaluation of the regional commissions

1. At its 6th meeting, on 7 June 2017, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) on the thematic evaluation of the regional commissions (E/AC.51/2017/8).

2. The Assistant Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services introduced the report and, together with representatives of OIOS and the Regional Commissions New York Office, responded to questions raised during its consideration by the Committee.

Discussion

3. Delegations expressed their appreciation and support for the report and its recommendations. They also noted their appreciation for the work of the regional commissions in providing statistical support to the Member States in their respective regions, in particular in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

4. Delegations expressed agreement in recognizing that multiple actors and partners were involved in providing statistical support to Member States and noted that it was important to enhance synergies and cooperation in that regard between the regional commissions and with other entities in the United Nations system. In that context, information was sought on possible measures to increase the frequency

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and quality of the exchange of knowledge between the regional commissions and the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

5. Information was sought on how the report and the recommendations contained therein aligned with the 2030 Agenda, the Sustainable Development Goals and the recommendations and decisions made in that context. Information was also sought about the use of the phrase "key statistics". Highlighting the three dimensions of the 2030 Agenda, namely economic, social and environmental, a delegation stressed the need to treat the three dimensions equally and, therefore, cautioned against the use of terms such as "key statistics", for which no legislative mandate existed. Similarly, in reference to paragraph 18 of the report and the "Statistics for Transparency, Accountability and Results: A Busan Action Plan for Statistics" mentioned therein, a delegation, while not questioning that document itself, expressed reservations about using accords and agreements negotiated outside the framework of the United Nations as references in the reports discussed by the Committee.

6. Delegations expressed agreement on the importance of having statistics and open and accessible data as an essential component of promoting sustainable development and the Goals, as well as the importance of the regional commissions in enhancing Member State statistical capacity. The need to further focus on the dissemination and use of statistics was emphasized, and information was sought on the types of activities that could be undertaken to enhance the use and sharing of statistics to more widely inform decision-making.

7. Clarification was sought on what appeared to be an inconsistency between the statistical support needs of countries and the relatively low amount of resources spent on capacity-building and technical assistance for the modernization of statistics.

8. Appreciation was expressed for the important work done by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in support of the statistical capacities of the region, which had been fully reported on in a previous evaluation.

9. A number of delegations stressed the importance of dedicating sufficient resources to the development of capacity for data dissemination, gathering and analysis at the national level. A delegation further stressed that, to properly channel technical assistance to Member States, it was necessary to empower the United Nations by allocating regular budgetary resources to related activities rather than relying principally on extrabudgetary resources. Several delegations emphasized the finite nature of resources and expressed the view that there was significant scope to use existing resources through enhanced collaboration between the regional commissions, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations country teams and all development actors, and stressed the need to reprioritize activities in support of the 2030 Agenda. In that regard, a delegation sought information on how the regional commissions were adapting to the new reality of the 2030 Agenda and how they were reprioritizing activities.

10. With regard to recommendation 1, a delegation stressed the importance of capacity at the national level and noted that it would have been appropriate to include other elements, namely "ownership of States on statistics collection" and "statistics culture".

11. Reference was made to recommendation 2, which highlighted the need to include actions to secure supplementary resources, and it was stressed that, while it was within the prerogative of OIOS to make a judgment on resources, the Committee did not have a mandate to discuss budgetary questions. In that regard,

clarification was sought on how the Committee should deal with the recommendation without encroaching on the mandate of the Fifth Committee.

12. With regard to recommendation 5, a delegation suggested that the recommendation in the report encouraging greater coordination and collaboration between the regional commissions be expanded to also include other close partners, in particular the Statistics Division, and sought the views of OIOS and the regional commissions thereon. A delegation sought clarification as to how the interaction might be improved and be more frequent and face-to-face, rather than merely through a conference call once every two months, as detailed in paragraph 46 of the report.

13. Several delegations emphasized that regional commissions should, upon request, align their support to national statistical capacities in conformity with national policies, standards and priorities and without compromising national ownership and leadership.

Conclusions and recommendations

14. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly endorse the recommendations contained in paragraphs 53 and 55 to 57. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly take note of the recommendation contained in paragraph 54.**

15. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly encourage the regional commissions to continue to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of their support to national statistical offices by streamlining coordination with Member States and within and among regional commissions.**

16. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly encourage the regional commissions to improve the effectiveness of their knowledge dissemination by developing measurable outreach strategies that guide the issuance of their knowledge products.**

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Addendum

Programme questions: evaluation
(*Item 3 (b)*)

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the evaluation of the Department of Political Affairs

1. At its 7th meeting, on 7 June 2017, the Committee considered the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) on the evaluation of the Department of Political Affairs (E/AC.51/2017/6 and Corr.1).

2. The Assistant Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services introduced the report and, together with representatives of OIOS and the Department of Political Affairs, responded to questions raised during its consideration by the Committee.

Discussion

3. Delegations expressed appreciation for the evaluation report, with several citing its quality and insightfulness, particularly in the light of the challenges of evaluating the highly qualitative nature of the work of the Department. Delegations conveyed support for the recommendations, explicitly citing recommendations 1 and 3. A delegation encouraged the Department to implement the recommendations within existing resources. A delegation enquired as to the periodicity of evaluations and the reasons that the Department had not been evaluated since 2008, taking into account that, on the basis of the risk assessment that the Inspection and Evaluation Division had undertaken, the Department was at the top of the list (see E/AC.51/2017/6, para. 1).

4. Delegations also expressed appreciation for the work of the Department, particularly its good offices, and for its mediation and conflict prevention work in the field. Furthermore, delegations emphasized the importance of the Department's

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mandate and its role in advising the Secretary-General in his own good offices work, for example, in the area of human rights. A delegation enquired whether the efficiency and the effectiveness of the support provided by the Department was recognized, bearing in mind the complexity of analysing its accountability procedures. A delegation observed that the Department faced structural difficulties in carrying out its functions, and welcomed the upcoming initiatives of the Secretary-General in addressing those issues, including co-location within the Secretariat and fostering a shift in mentality.

5. Clarification was requested of the Department regarding the reasons behind the increased number of conflicts around the world since 1990, and the potential links with the work of the Department (see E/AC.51/2017/6, para. 8). A delegation queried the Department on the drivers behind the increasing number of special political missions during the period under evaluation (see E/AC.51/2017/6, para. 11). In that regard, the focus of the report on those missions was questioned. One delegation enquired as to the degree of engagement between those missions and national authorities, and also enquired as to how the performance of such missions was appraised. In the context of non-mission support provided by the Department in the past, a delegation enquired as to the reference in paragraph 25 of the report to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela as an anecdotal case of a country that had benefited from the support of the Department.

6. Updates were sought on the specific measures that the Department had been taking, or intended to take, to address the weaknesses highlighted in the report. Areas on which clarification was sought included: analytical gaps; the lack of early warning analyses and exit strategies; proposals by the Secretary-General to improve the peace and security architecture, including recommendations from the report of the High-Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations; insufficient measures for ensuring field-level accountability (see E/AC.51/2017/6, paras. 51 and 52); harnessing knowledge to improve performance; and the lack of gender parity, particularly among mediators. With regard to the Department's analytical gaps, questions were raised regarding the sharing of political analysis with other departments and with the Security Council. In reference to paragraph 37 of the report, a delegation enquired whether the establishment of the analysis and strategic planning unit in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General would help address analytical gaps, including in the areas of early warning and conflict prevention. Reiterating the importance of accountability and oversight of work performed in the field, concerns were raised regarding one of the report's findings concerning the lack of compacts among some categories of senior mission leadership, and calls were made for the improvement of accountability systems in the future. A delegation enquired as to the reasons for the underrepresentation of women in high-level posts and the remedial actions taken to correct the issue. In that regard, the Department was encouraged to strengthen its efforts to achieve greater gender parity.

7. Specific concerns were voiced regarding the Department's partnerships, specifically the potential duplication between the Department and other United Nations entities in providing specific areas of support, including in some areas which were considered as falling outside the Department's expertise (for example, with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in the area of human rights, as referenced in paragraph 24 of the report, or with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations with regard to peacekeeping operations). A delegation raised the issue of standby teams and associated shortcomings and actions that the Department planned to take to address the issue, including linking them to the upcoming proposals of the Secretary-General on peace and security. A delegation sought further information on the extent to which the Department had partnered with regional and subregional organizations, including the African Union, in the context of

providing support to non-mission settings (see E/AC.51/2017/6, para. 32). Concerning paragraph 6 (d) of the report, a delegation requested clarification on the role of the Department in the election-related assistance that would be provided to Member States.

8. A delegation raised concerns regarding the root causes of the different ratings by stakeholder groups of the Department's effectiveness (Headquarters versus field staff versus Peace and Development Advisers), as presented in figure V of the report. Furthermore, noting the information contained in paragraph 31 of the report and the different tiers of criticality for countries in conflict supported by the Department, a delegation raised concerns regarding the criteria the Department employed in deciding which conflict settings to support, and whether and why some high-criticality settings were not supported, while other lower-criticality settings were.

9. A delegation enquired about the possibility that the Committee could provide recommendations to Member States in order to address deficiencies in intergovernmental decision-making processes as highlighted in the report, which created challenges for the Department, citing, for example, Security Council mandates, which, as the report indicated, rarely changed. A delegation offered the view that the Committee should not offer recommendations to Member States, which would go beyond its remit.

10. One delegation raised concerns regarding the frequency with which OIOS intended to evaluate the Department in the future, pointing out that it had rated the Department as high-risk in the risk assessment it had presented to the Committee at its informal meeting on 5 June 2017. A delegation raised questions regarding the extent to which OIOS had consulted with host Governments during the inception phase of the evaluation, especially considering the evaluation's focus, and expressed interest in increased collaboration with the evaluation team before and during the evaluation. A delegation underlined that case studies, a survey and a documentation review had been undertaken in order to perform the analysis of the Department. In reference to figure III, the delegation underlined that 1.2 billion dollars represented 23 per cent of the Organization's regular budget for political affairs, and sought further information on the inclusion of that Department's budget performance in future performance evaluations. A delegation noted the absence of an evaluation for the biennium 2014-2015 and enquired as to the reasons.

11. A delegation sought clarification regarding paragraph 45 of the report, concerning, notably, the fact that the Department was not structured to produce independent evaluations of performance either at the Headquarters or at the field level and that there was as yet no dedicated evaluation office, thus setting it apart from most other Secretariat entities.

Conclusions and recommendations

12. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly endorse recommendations 1, 2 and 3 contained in paragraph 59 of the report of OIOS on the evaluation of the Department of Political Affairs.**

13. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly take note of recommendation 4 contained in paragraph 59 of the report of OIOS on the evaluation of the Department of Political Affairs.**

14. **The Committee recalled the importance of holding the most senior staff of the Department of Political Affairs accountable, and noted that the Inspection and Evaluation Division had first highlighted the issue in its 2006-2008 evaluation.**

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Addendum

Programme questions: evaluation

(Item 5 (b))

The Committee decided to insert the following text as the first paragraph of section II.B, Programme questions: evaluation, of its report:

The Committee reaffirmed its role as the main subsidiary organ of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council for planning, programming and coordination. In that respect, the Committee agreed that all recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services endorsed in the present report should be taken forward, as appropriate, in full accordance with the respective mandates of the bodies concerned.

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Addendum

Programme questions: evaluation
(*Item 3 (b)*)

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the evaluation of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for 2017

1. At its 4th meeting, on 6 June 2017, the Committee considered the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) on the evaluation of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for 2017 (E/AC.51/2017/10).

2. The Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services introduced the report and, together with representatives of OIOS and UNHCR, responded to questions raised during its consideration by the Committee.

Discussion

3. Delegations expressed appreciation for the report of OIOS, with some voicing support for the recommendations made therein. Delegations also expressed appreciation for the work of UNHCR, which they noted was frequently carried out under very challenging circumstances, with external factors at play and in conjunction with partners. Delegations emphasized the importance of undertaking refugee registration in full coordination with host Governments and of registration for the effective delivery of assistance.

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4. While highlighting the importance and complexity of registration of refugees and asylum seekers, delegations raised concerns regarding the quality of registration data and asked how the granularity of such data could be improved. The view was expressed that UNHCR should, in the light of the recommendations made in the report, enhance its results-based approach to monitoring and evaluation. Delegations asked how UNHCR built staff capacity in its geographically dispersed field operations. They also asked UNHCR to describe its progress in reducing registration timelines, in relation to paragraph 28 and figure XII of the report, and called for the streamlining of those timelines wherever circumstances permitted.

5. Clarification was sought with regard to the fact that, in the period under evaluation, UNHCR expenditure was consistently lower than income and needs (according to figures II and VIII), vacancy rates were high (according to figure IX) and registration was conducted at a relatively low staff level (according to para. 42). Delegations wished to know the reasons for those situations, whether UNHCR had difficulties in filling its positions and what solutions it might suggest to tackle the issues. Clarification was also sought on the needs-based approach to budgeting and whether it could potentially contribute to overbudgeting.

6. Delegations noted that OIOS had not delved deeply into all potential protection implications of registration or lack thereof, notably in relation to trafficking in persons, as mentioned in paragraph 30 of the report, and its new dimensions in situations of armed conflict. Some delegations objected to the reference in paragraph 21 of the report to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons as a vulnerable population or "persons with specific needs", stressing that there was no consensus on the matter. Serious concern was raised over the carrying out of non-consensual activities and the use of non-consensual terms in reports submitted to the Committee. Some delegations noted that "lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender" was a term agreed upon in the United Nations, as evidenced by Human Rights Council resolutions 17/19, 27/32 and 32/2.

Conclusions and recommendations

7. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly endorse the recommendations contained in paragraph 61 of the report of OIOS on the evaluation of UNHCR.**

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Rapporteur: Mr. Rodrigo Otávio **Penteado Moraes** (Brazil)

Addendum

Coordination questions: report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination

(*Item 4 (a)*)

Annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2016

1. At its 11th meeting, on 9 June 2017, the Committee considered the annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) for 2016 (E/2017/55).

2. The Director of the secretariat of CEB introduced the report and responded to questions raised during its consideration by the Committee.

Discussion

3. Delegations welcomed the comprehensive report on the activities of CEB during 2016. Appreciation and support was widely expressed for the Board's work to promote system-wide coordination, maximize coherence, avoid duplication and optimize the use of resources in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental mandates. Delegations stressed the importance of continuing to ensure that the Board's work was guided by such mandates.

4. Similarly, it was observed that individual United Nations system entities were expected to contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and other intergovernmental processes within their individual institutional mandates. Delegations stressed the importance of avoiding duplication of work among United Nations organizations.

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5. Welcoming the support of the United Nations Development Group for the United Nations country teams, a delegation highlighted in particular the value of the guidelines on support for voluntary and country-led reporting on national goals. United Nations system support for Member States was also broadly appreciated. It was seen as essential that the system was "pulling in the same direction", including through the Resident Coordinator system. While acknowledging "Delivering as one" to be a positive initiative, its voluntary nature was reiterated and it was recalled that a recommendation emphasizing that point had been adopted by the Committee at its fifty-fifth session.

6. The need for the United Nations system to take measures to improve operational activities for development was emphasized by several delegations, which highlighted the role of CEB in that context. The expectation that the Board would enhance its transparency in line with the quadrennial comprehensive policy review resolution through regular briefings to the Economic and Social Council (see General Assembly resolution 71/243, para. 45 (c)) was recalled.

7. It was recognized by several delegations that CEB and its subsidiary machinery were uniquely positioned to leverage the strengths and expertise of the United Nations system to realize improvements in human resources, finance, procurement and other management functions. Broad appreciation was expressed for the achievements of the High-level Committee on Management in improving efficiency in such areas. Several delegations supported continuing work on harmonization and simplification of business practices with a view to realizing further efficiencies and continuing to enhance effectiveness across the system. The hope was expressed that the Board would inform and support the Secretary-General's management reform initiatives.

8. On human resources, it was observed by a delegation that there was an opportunity for further reform, including allowing more flexible deployment of personnel across United Nations system entities and increased support for skills development. The uniform application of human resources reforms and timely implementation of decisions by the International Civil Service Commission were also called for across the system.

9. Regarding procurement, appreciation was expressed for having increased the number of registrations of vendors from developing countries and countries with economies in transition. Questions were raised concerning what other work had been undertaken by the High-level Committee on Management related to procurement during the reporting period, and also on what other categories of goods and/or services were being considered for common procurement processes, such as long-term agreements.

10. Work carried out under the auspices of CEB to facilitate information and knowledge management and to promote multilingualism was also welcomed by a delegation. More information was sought on the adoption by the Board of the Akoma Ntoso (AKN) eXtensible Markup Language (XML) standard for the United Nations documentation environment that had been developed by the High-level Committee on Management working group on document standards. The benefits of the common standard were acknowledged, including achieving efficiencies in document management and productivity gains in the translation process, as well as supporting multilingualism and greater accessibility to United Nations documents by persons with disabilities.

11. Several delegations expressed appreciation for the Board's role, through the High-level Committee on Programmes in promoting system-wide coordination in the follow-up to United Nations conferences and summits. Support was also expressed for the work of the High-level Committee on Programmes on enhancing

system-wide policy coherence. It was stated that the production of joint policy papers on cross-cutting themes was positive and should be more broadly promoted. The shared United Nations system framework for action on equality and non-discrimination and the common core principles for a United Nations system-wide approach to climate action were welcomed in particular.

12. A delegation expressed appreciation for the Board's support for enhancing the support of the United Nations system for trade and investment. Clarification was sought as to the expected timeline for the dissemination of the recommendations on how the United Nations system could best enhance the overall effectiveness of its support for enhancing the flow of foreign direct investment to the least developed countries.

13. The coordination activities in which the Board engaged with other jointly financed bodies, namely, the International Civil Service Commission and the Joint Inspection Unit, were acknowledged by a delegation.

Conclusions and recommendations

14. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly take note of the annual overview report of CEB for 2016 (E/2017/55).**

15. **The Committee recognized the contributions of CEB throughout 2016 to enhance United Nations system-wide coherence and coordination in policy, operational and management matters.**

16. **The Committee expressed support for the continuing work of the CEB, within existing mandates, on the harmonization and simplification of business practices aimed at increasing the coherence, coordination, effectiveness, efficiency, accountability and credibility of the United Nations system. The Committee reiterated its recommendation that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of CEB, to continue to address that issue.**

17. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of CEB, to continue to include in the reports of CEB to the Committee information on actions undertaken on the wide range of programmatic, management and operational issues linked to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Committee recommended that the Assembly request the Secretary-General to also continue to include in the aforementioned report information on a United Nations system-wide approach to climate action within the context of the Paris Agreement.**

18. **The Committee reiterated its recommendations to the General Assembly to bring to the attention of the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of CEB, the need to ensure that the Board's activities and initiatives, including those relating to system-wide coherence, encompassed the principle of voluntary adoption of "Delivering as one" as defined in General Assembly resolution 71/243, and were fully in line with intergovernmental mandates.**

19. **The Committee recognized the continued efforts of CEB to engage with Member States, including, but not limited to, the use of its website, to further enhance and strengthen the Board's transparency and accountability to Member States.**

20. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of CEB, to continue to foster a coordinated approach to multilingualism, which was a core value of the United Nations system, in accordance with the relevant General Assembly resolutions.**

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Addendum

Programme questions: evaluation
(*Item 3 (b)*)

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the programme evaluation of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

1. At its 4th meeting, on 6 June 2017, the Committee considered the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) on the Evaluation of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) (E/AC.51/2017/2).

2. The Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services introduced the report and, together with representatives of OIOS and UNHCR, responded to questions raised during its consideration by the Committee.

Discussion

3. Delegations expressed appreciation for the report of OIOS and for the work undertaken by UNHCR in challenging circumstances, such as the mixed settings of refugees and internally displaced persons covered by the report. Delegations noted with appreciation the conclusion contained in the report that the engagement of UNHCR with internally displaced persons had not affected its ability to deliver on its refugee mandate, and a number of delegations expressed support for the recommendations reflected in the report. A delegation noted the importance of the work carried out by UNHCR in upholding human rights. Several delegations emphasized the different nature of internally displaced persons and refugees and the different legislative frameworks guiding the two categories, and reaffirmed State sovereignty and responsibility for internally displaced persons.

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4. The need for UNHCR to always abide by its mandates as provided by the relevant resolutions of intergovernmental bodies and by its statute was emphasized, as was the need for it to act in full respect for national sovereignty. In particular, it was stressed that UNHCR must seek engagement with countries of origin and that the vetting process for protection must be fully adhered to.

5. Delegations expressed concerns regarding the protracted nature of refugee and internally displaced persons crises and the growing numbers of displaced people. They also noted some of the constraints faced in dealing with those situations, including security concerns and lack of political will. Also discussed was the fact that the achievement of durable solutions was the lowest-rated area of UNHCR work noted in the report, and it was emphasized that UNHCR must work with development actors and countries of origin to address the root causes of protracted crises. The question of how to distinguish the work of UNHCR from that of other entities that worked in the area of development was raised, as was that of whether long-term refugees constituted an emergency situation or a sustainable development issue.

6. Several delegations acknowledged resource limitations with regard to activities of UNHCR and information was sought on whether the fact that 99 per cent of its budget came from voluntary contributions had an impact on its activities (see E/AC.51/2017/2, para. 13). Information was also sought on the needs-based approach to budgeting, including details on how needs were identified and quantified and whether the needs-based budget of UNHCR was accurate or potentially exaggerated.

7. On the question of monitoring, several delegations raised concerns regarding the lack of data on out-of-camp refugees (ibid., para. 24), and one asked whether in the absence of such data, UNHCR and OIOS could support the claim that living out of camps improved resilience. Further detail was sought about the monitoring by UNHCR of its planning and exit stages. Delegations further noted limitations in the work carried out by UNHCR in collecting and providing feedback from beneficiaries and asked for further details about the process, including whether UNHCR had the means to evaluate the intermediaries it used for the provision of services.

8. A delegation referred to paragraphs 27 and 47 of the report and sought clarification on perspectives on UNHCR performance, notably with regard to durable solutions and information-sharing. Information was sought regarding UNHCR coordination arrangements with United Nations system partners, including the United Nations Development Programme, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and civil society, as well as the effectiveness of such arrangements. Delegations encouraged effective coordination within the United Nations system to address the complex challenges faced in mixed refugee and internally displaced persons settings. One delegation requested that UNHCR and OCHA track and report on the implementation of the 2014 "Joint UNHCR-OCHA note on mixed situations: coordination in practice". Clarification was sought on the suggestion of a non-governmental co-lead for the protection cluster in some contexts. A delegation sought clarification regarding figure III in the report, notably in reference to the Lake Chad region.

Conclusions and recommendations

9. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly take note of the recommendations contained in paragraphs 65 to 68 of the report of OIOS on the evaluation of UNHCR (E/AC.51/2017/2), taking into account that those recommendations were presented in the context of mixed settings.**

10. The Committee noted the challenges faced by UNHCR and its partners in managing the expectations of persons of concern and in improving communication with them. Further to recommendation 2 set out in paragraph 67 of the report, the Committee acknowledged the existing positive practice of UNHCR and its partners in proactively engaging persons of concern and recommended that the General Assembly encourage UNHCR to devise pragmatic, efficient and situation-tailored measures to alleviate those perceived gaps with a view to ensuring proper accountability and easing the frustration of persons of concern with respect to unmet needs.

11. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly recommend that, when carrying out its activities, UNHCR act fully in accordance with its mandate.

12. The Committee recalled that the current activities of UNHCR related to internally displaced persons should not undermine the refugee mandate of the Office and the institution of asylum and noted that OIOS had found that, for the most part, the involvement of UNHCR with internally displaced persons in mixed settings did not appear to affect its mandated activities for refugees in the case studies evaluated in recent years. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly take note of this finding.

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Addendum

Programme questions: evaluation
(Item 5 (b))

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the evaluation of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

1. At its 9th meeting, on 8 June 2017, the Committee considered the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) on the evaluation of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) (E/AC.51/2017/9).

2. The Assistant Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services introduced the report and, together with representatives of OIOS and the United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights, responded to questions raised during its consideration by the Committee.

Discussion

3. Delegations expressed appreciation for the evaluation and noted the important role of OHCHR in promoting and protecting human rights across the world.

4. Several delegations commented on the scope of the evaluation. Noting that in the report it was pointed out that the involvement of resident coordinators was crucial for the mainstreaming of human rights, a delegation expressed the view that the report would be more balanced if it sufficiently reflected the crucial role of United Nations country teams in the area of human rights.

5. Several delegations expressed disappointment at the limited focus of the report on field activities and suggested that other important aspects should have been

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analysed, including the geographic imbalance of the composition of staff in OHCHR, the imbalanced manner in which OHCHR treated the different categories of human rights and the promotion of international cooperation for the promotion and protection of human rights. The view was also expressed that, by focusing only on field presences, the report focused solely on the developing world, contradicting the universality of the mandate of OHCHR. On the issue of gaps in geographic coverage of OHCHR in the field, a delegation noted that OHCHR did not cover most countries of Europe and North America and requested clarification on what steps were being taken to address that situation. Several delegations expressed the view that the focus on the field presences was timely in the light of the growth of the field presences in the past few years and the role of field offices in helping to draft national human rights laws, plans and policies. A delegation noted the important normative role of OHCHR and asked whether the treaty bodies were included as part of the report.

6. A delegation inquired whether OIOS had conducted an analysis of OHCHR management structures and how they had an impact on the work in the field. The view was expressed that the human resources structure of OHCHR was biased in favour of staff from Western Europe and other States and that that did not reflect the multiplicity of approaches to human rights. On the same topic of management structure, a delegation pointed to the work of human rights advisers and human rights components in peacekeeping operations and asked whether there were two standards of accountability. Clarification was sought on whether the fact that all staff of peacekeeping operations were subordinate to the heads of mission could undermine accountability.

7. On the evaluation methodology, a delegation stated that the results were based primarily on interviews with staff and other United Nations departments, whereas the main beneficiaries were Member States and therefore their views were the ultimate measuring stick for the effectiveness of OHCHR.

8. It was emphasized that all activities of OHCHR must strictly abide by the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolution 48/141 on the High Commissioner for the promotion and protection of all human rights. A number of delegations stated that the establishment of field offices, including regional offices, must only happen upon the express request and consent of the host country. A delegation noted with concern that some field operations had been launched without the prior consent of Member States or countries. In that regard, the delegation stressed that OHCHR field offices should not play the role of "human rights police" but rather focus on technical assistance to Member States. Similarly, it was noted that the point made in the report of host countries not being receptive to criticism should be looked at from another perspective, since the goal of OHCHR was not to criticize but to help countries to fulfil their human rights obligations, particularly in difficult post-conflict situations when there were competing priorities. Therefore, with regard to recommendation 2, on the development of an overarching deployment strategy for OHCHR field presences, several delegations stressed that further considerations were necessary in the light of the fact that OHCHR could only establish field presences upon request.

9. While fully acknowledging the importance of human rights and the mainstreaming of human rights across all United Nations activities, a delegation expressed concern at the use of the term "human rights-based approach" and stressed that no intergovernmental consensus had been reached on the term, including during the negotiations the previous year in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system. Another delegation expressed appreciation for the human rights-based approach. In relation to the presence of human rights advisers as part of United Nations country teams, a delegation requested clarification on the relationship of the advisers to the

"One United Nations" or "Delivering as one" approach, an approach that was not universally implemented, and expressed concern about promoting the presence of human rights advisers to the detriment of other agencies, funds and programmes.

10. Some reservations were expressed regarding recommendation 4, on strengthening the follow-up to special procedures of the Human Rights Council. In that regard, a delegation cited the judicial independence of countries. Another delegation questioned why OHCHR continued to employ and extend the mandate of special rapporteurs who were not accepted by countries. On the same issue, reference was made to paragraph 32 of the report, in which it was stated that no resources were dedicated to supporting the follow-up to recommendations of special procedures, and information was sought on what OHCHR intended to do to find resources.

11. A delegation noted that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was a new paradigm for all Member States, conveyed its disappointment at the absence of any references to the 2030 Agenda in the report and sought clarification on how the 2030 Agenda was being mainstreamed into the work of OHCHR.

12. A delegation expressed the view that the Committee should not lose sight of the important work carried out by OHCHR at its headquarters. It noted that human rights was the least funded of the three pillars of the United Nations and urged sufficient resources for OHCHR to ensure that it could deliver the important backstopping and support it provided for the Human Rights Council, the special procedures and the treaty bodies, as well as all other missions carried out at its headquarters. Clarification was sought on whether it was indeed the case that there were no dedicated resources for special procedures and whether OHCHR had any plans for rectifying the matter.

13. A delegation stressed that OHCHR should allocate current resources in a rational manner and promote all human rights in a balanced way. Reference was made to a reform initiative of the Office aimed at strengthening the field presence, and in that regard it was stressed that such reform initiatives must be undertaken in a transparent manner and in full consultation with Member States. Some delegations expressed disappointment that the reform initiative had initially been implemented without intergovernmental approval and stressed that no further action must be taken until a mandate was given to OHCHR.

14. A delegation noted the risk of earmarked funding compromising the neutrality of OHCHR and inquired about the reasons for the tendency of declining unearmarked funding, advancing, as a possible response, the preference of countries on having more control over where to spend their funds and their not agreeing with the priorities of OHCHR. In that regard, the view was expressed that OHCHR and instruments created by the Human Rights Council must be financed from the regular budget. Clarification was sought regarding OHCHR fundraising activities in the field and the question was asked of whether the goal of diversifying the donor pool had been achieved. Information was also sought on the role of headquarters and host Governments in fundraising activities and expanding the donor pool. It was noted that the report highlighted potential tensions between Office-wide priorities and donor priorities and the question was raised of whether OIOS had reviewed the OHCHR fundraising policy. Information was also sought on where OHCHR considered it needed more resources to better carry out its work in the field.

Conclusions and recommendations

15. **The Committee decided to defer consideration of the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the evaluation of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (E/AC.51/2017/9) to its fifty-ninth session.**

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Addendum

Programme questions: proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019

(*Item 3 (a)*)

Report of the Secretary-General on consolidated changes to the biennial programme plan as reflected in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019

Programme 12
Human settlements

1. At its 12th and 13th meetings, on 12 and 13 June 2017, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered the report of the Secretary-General on consolidated changes to the biennial programme plan as reflected in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019 (A/72/84 and Corr.1 and 2).

2. Representatives of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to questions raised during its consideration by the Committee.

Discussion

3. Clarification was sought as to whether the proposed changes to the biennial programme plan for 2018-2019, in particular the strategy, had been scrutinized and approved by the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat). A delegation pointed out that more precise references to mandates, resolutions and outcome documents from international conferences, such as the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development

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(Habitat III), which justified the proposed changes to the approved biennial programme plan for the period 2018-2019 (A/71/6/Rev.1), should be included.

4. In reference to the results-based management framework, a delegation highlighted the fact that the indicators of achievement put forward did not provide clarity regarding the impact of the activities of the programme. In particular, there were no concrete benchmarks, such as percentages or concrete numbers, but rather references to an "increased number", which the delegation considered would not permit activities to be satisfactorily assessed. The delegation sought clarification as to how to measure performance without concrete targets and how to reorient programmes in respect of changing agendas.

Conclusions and recommendations

5. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the changes to the narrative of programme 12, Human settlements, as set out in the report of the Secretary-General (A/72/84 and Corr.1 and 2) and in section 15, Human settlements, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019 (A/72/6 (Sect. 15)), subject to the following modifications:**

Subprogramme 1
Urban legislation, land and governance

Overall orientation

Paragraph 42

Replace the second sentence with the following: "In this respect, the programme of work will include a cohesive portfolio of projects and initiatives that will respond to recent global strategic processes, including, within the mandate of UN-Habitat, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the outcome of the 2016 high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants, the "New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants"."

Replace the third sentence with the following: "The following seven subprogammes continue to be a vehicle for support by UN-Habitat to Member States and other partners, as appropriate, in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and related global priorities:"

Paragraph 50

Replace the last sentence with the following: "This may have a significant impact on achieving development outcomes in the field."

Paragraph 52

Replace the first sentence with the following: "At the global and, when requested, including as already defined through its mandate and relevant resolutions, the regional and national levels, UN-Habitat will coordinate, cooperate and collaborate with United Nations funds, agencies and programmes to support the implementation of the New Urban Agenda by governments."

Strategy

Paragraph 56 (b)

Replace the last sentence with the following: "Through the Global Land Tool Network and linked to UN-Habitat field projects, the subprogramme will support the adoption of policies and tools in priority areas, including the administration and regulation of land markets; fit-for-purpose and inclusive land records and land management systems; local, subnational and national capacity to manage land issues; improved land-based financing systems; inclusive land allocation and distribution strategies; the use of land readjustment as a means to acquire public space, develop housing space and improve urban layout; and the adoption of tools for land tenure security for women and the most vulnerable;"

Subprogramme 3
Urban economy and municipal finance

Strategy

Paragraph 61

Replace the first sentence with the following: "The subprogramme supports local, subnational and national authorities in adopting or implementing inclusive policies and strategies that are supportive of inclusive economic growth and development, the creation of economic opportunities for all, particularly young men and women and the most vulnerable, and improved municipal finance."

Subprogramme 4
Urban basic services

Strategy

Paragraph 63 (a)

Replace the third sentence with the following: "Efforts will focus on strengthening the technical and management capacity of governments and service providers to ensure institutional efficiency and effectiveness in service provision and to provide adequate levels of service for the urban poor, including to community institutions such as schools and hospitals, engaging in national and subnational policy and sector reform processes to mainstream urban basic services into national urban policies and practices, with a particular focus on the urban poor and the most vulnerable, and undertaking advocacy and networking on urban basic services."

Paragraph 63 (b)

Replace the fourth sentence with the following: "Pro-poor financing mechanisms will be developed to mobilize support for the urban poor and the most vulnerable."

Paragraph 63 (c)

Replace the seventh sentence with the following: "The subprogramme will take into account the needs and priorities of the urban poor and the most vulnerable."

Subprogramme 7
Urban research and capacity development

Strategy

Paragraph 69 (b)

Replace the second sentence with the following: "In this connection, UN-Habitat will disseminate the most reliable, relevant, up-to-date and comprehensive knowledge on sustainable urbanization issues, including as part of its contribution to the quadrennial report on progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda."

Paragraph 69 (c)

Replace the last sentence with the following: "UN-Habitat and its partners will, within its mandate, support the execution of regional capacity-building programmes that respond to the need to implement the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda effectively."

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Addendum

Programme questions: proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019

(*Item 3 (a)*)

Report of the Secretary-General on consolidated changes to the biennial programme plan as reflected in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019

Programme 10
Trade and development

Introduction

1. At its 12th and 13th meetings, on 12 and 13 June 2017, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered programme 10, Trade and development, of the report of the Secretary-General on the consolidated changes to the biennial programme plan as reflected in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019 (A/72/84 and Corr.1 and 2).

2. The Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) introduced the programme and responded to questions raised during its consideration by the Committee.

Discussion

3. Delegations expressed their appreciation for the introduction of the revisions to programme 10, Trade and development, of the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2018-2019 (A/71/6/Rev.1) and for the efforts undertaken to

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streamline the work of UNCTAD and make it more flexible in responding to the needs of member States.

4. Some delegations welcomed and expressed support for the alignment of the programme and its resources with the Nairobi Maafikiano, the outcome document of the fourteenth session of UNCTAD, and for the focus of the programme on regional integration. Some delegations welcomed the proposal to align UNCTAD resources with the aim of supporting developing countries in implementing goals towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. One delegation stressed the importance of facilitating the integration of small- and medium-sized businesses into the global value chain. One delegation expressed appreciation for the role of UNCTAD as a vital forum for supporting developing countries and economies in transition, highlighting in particular the enhanced cooperation with the Eurasian Economic Union.

5. Some delegations expressed support for the increased efforts of UNCTAD to be nimble and lean and, in that regard, stressed the importance of developing an evaluation mechanism to show that the results achieved were consistent with the Sustainable Development Goals. Some delegations expressed disappointment with the indicators of achievement owing to their being quantitative rather than qualitative in nature. In that respect, UNCTAD was requested to improve the formulation of the indicators of achievement and the thematic presentation of outputs. One delegation commented on the presentation of some tables in section 12, Trade and development, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019 (A/72/6 (Sect. 12) and Corr.1) and highlighted table 12.19 on categories of outputs and final outputs in particular, seeking clarification on the rationale for such a list and for the use of quantity rather than quality to measure outcomes and results.

6. One delegation sought clarification on the reference to the activities of the World Trade Organization in paragraph 14 of the report of the Secretary-General.

7. With regard to the placement of cross-cutting activities, such as those concerning gender equality and the empowerment of women, within subprogramme 1, Globalization, interdependence and development, referred to in paragraph 16 (f) of the report, some delegations noted that additional posts had been approved by the General Assembly for those activities. However, they questioned whether such activities that were cross-cutting in nature might be better placed in the Office of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD.

8. Some delegations sought clarification on the mandate for strengthening the work of UNCTAD in the area of statistics, as outlined in paragraph 18 (f) of the report, under subprogramme 1, Globalization, interdependence and development. Some delegations raised concerns regarding the mandate of UNCTAD and the possible duplication of efforts in the area of debt, with respect to which there appeared to be an attempt to conflate debt with the activities of the International Conference on Financing for Development, which seemed to go beyond the mandate of UNCTAD and the Nairobi Maafikiano.

9. One delegation noted some of the cuts in resource requirements in the regular budget and expressed the hope that those cuts would not affect the quality of management, but rather would enable more rational use of resources and help UNCTAD to work with the donor community in mobilizing extrabudgetary resources.

Conclusions and recommendations

10. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the changes to the narrative of programme 10, Trade and development, as set out in the report of the Secretary-General (A/72/84 and Corr.1 and 2) and in section 12, Trade and development, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019 (A/72/6 (Sect. 12) and Corr.1), subject to the following modifications:**

Paragraph 6

Replace the second sentence with the following: "Through its work to promote development-centred globalization, UNCTAD will help to implement the global development agenda, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third United Nations Conference on Financing for Development and, as appropriate, the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and will assist developing countries in meeting their development goals, including poverty eradication, improving the well-being of citizens, addressing the opportunities and challenges created by globalization and contributing to the achievement of all relevant Sustainable Development Goals."

Replace the last sentence with the following: "The specific development needs of African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, as well as the specific challenges facing middle-income countries, according to their needs, should be addressed at both the research and technical assistance levels in accordance with the Nairobi Maafikiano and other given mandates."

Paragraph 9

Replace the second sentence with the following: "As sustainable and inclusive outcomes in an interdependent world involve collective responses at the multilateral level, UNCTAD has a key role to play within the United Nations system in building consensus around more development-centred globalization, which can contribute to the promotion of sustainable development, increased productive capacities for economic structural transformation, sustainable debt management, job creation, poverty eradication and stronger multilateralism."

Paragraph 14

Add a new paragraph after paragraph 14, reading:

In the area of statistics, UNCTAD will continue to assist requesting countries in improving their compilation and dissemination of official statistics and make available a wide range of data, including current UNCTAD statistical products, to inform and assist decision-making.

Subprogramme 1
Globalization, interdependence and development

Strategy

Paragraph 16 (c) (iv)

Replace the existing text with the following:

Debt issues, including the Debt Management and Financial Analysis System Programme, and the promotion of policies for responsible sovereign borrowing and lending, complementing the work done by other stakeholders, as appropriate;

Paragraph 17 (b)

Replace the existing text with the following:

Research and analysis on debt issues, including the Debt Management and Financial Analysis System Programme, and the promotion of policies for responsible sovereign borrowing and lending, complementing the work done by other stakeholders, as appropriate;

Paragraph 17 (i)

Replace the existing text with the following:

Research and analysis of trends and prospects for North-South cooperation, as well as South-South integration and cooperation, including triangular cooperation, in the areas of trade, finance, investment and technology;

Paragraph 17 (j)

Replace the existing text with the following:

Assessing, including through research and analysis on a regular basis, and promoting consensus on how development cooperation and partnerships, including those involving North-South cooperation and South-South cooperation, can further contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in developing countries;

Paragraph 18

Replace the existing text with the following:

Within its mandate, UNCTAD will focus on:

(a) Continuing to provide information and statistics on a range of statistics and statistical indicators dealing with trade, investment, debt, macroeconomics, finance, debt sustainability, globalization and sustainable development;

(b) Enhancing the quality of UNCTAD statistics by implementing the United Nations Statistical Quality Assurance Framework, ensuring that best international standards are adopted and a common quality standard across all UNCTAD statistical products is applied;

(c) Contributing to research and development by providing high-quality and timely statistics and through the provision of statistical advice and expertise;

(d) Facilitating the exchange of information on key development issues, through the free dissemination of a range of statistical products tailored to different audiences, making key information accessible to everyone, irrespective of statistical expertise;

(e) Providing technical assistance and capacity-building programmes for statistical experts, government officials, academia and

policymakers in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in coordination and cooperation with relevant partners;

(f) Supporting the efforts of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to develop their national statistical systems and improve statistical literacy in cooperation with other United Nations statistical agencies and international organizations.

Subprogramme 2
Investment and enterprise

Strategy

Paragraph 20.(d)

Replace the existing text with the following:

Support efforts by developing countries, in particular African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing states, as well as middle-income countries, according to their needs, to build productive capacities and internationally competitive firms, in cooperation with ITC;

Subprogramme 3
International trade and commodities

Strategy

Paragraph 21.(i)

Delete the word "enhancing".

Subprogramme 4
Technology and logistics

Strategy

Paragraph 20.(m)

Replace the existing text with the following:

Contributing, as a member of the United Nations inter-agency task team on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals and as the secretariat of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, to the implementation of outcomes related to science, technology and innovation of the 2030 Agenda, including the Technology Facilitation Mechanism and the operationalization of the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries;

Subprogramme 5
Africa, least developed countries and special programmes

Strategy

Paragraph 20

In the fifth sentence covert to the original language as approved in the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2018-2019 (A/71/6/Rev.1), reading: "The subprogramme will assist all beneficiaries in their efforts to successfully achieve economic diversification and structural transformation."